

SFHCHS132

Obtain venous blood samples



Overview

This standard covers the use of venepuncture/phlebotomy techniques and procedures to obtain venous blood samples from individuals for investigations.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control any other relevant health and safety measures
- P2 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
- P3 gain valid consent to carry out the planned activity
- P4 select and prepare:
 - P4.1 an appropriate site
 - P4.2 appropriate equipment for obtaining the venous blood
- P5 apply, use and release a tourniquet at appropriate stages of the procedure
- P6 gain venous access using the selected blood collection system, in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the individual
- P7 obtain the blood from the selected site:
 - P7.1 in the correct container according to investigation required
 - P7.2 in the correct volume
 - P7.3 in the correct order when taking multiple samples
- P8 take appropriate action to stimulate the flow of blood if there is a problem obtaining blood from the selected site, or choose an alternative site
- P9 mix the blood and anti-coagulant thoroughly when anti-coagulated blood is needed
- P10 promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly
- P11 remove blood collection equipment and stop blood flow with sufficient pressure at the correct point and for the sufficient length of time to ensure bleeding has stopped
- P12 apply a suitable dressing to the puncture site according to guidelines and/or protocols, and advise the individual about how to care for the site
- P13 label blood samples clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate
- P14 place samples in the appropriate packaging and ensure the correct request forms are attached
- P15 place samples in the nominated place for collection and transportation, ensuring the blood is kept at the required temperature to maintain its integrity
- P16 document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records
- P17 ensure immediate transport of the blood to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with any Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining venous blood samples
- K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and any Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K4 the importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals' identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification
- K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K6 the importance of applying standard precautions to obtaining venous blood samples and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7 how infection is spread and how its spread may be limited - including how to use or apply the particular infection control measures needed when working with blood
- K8 the structure of blood vessels
- K9 the position of accessible veins for venous access in relation to arteries, nerves and other anatomical structures
- K10 blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting
- K11 the contra-indications and changes in behaviour and condition, which indicate that the procedure should be stopped, and advice sought
- K12 the concerns which individuals may have in relation to you obtaining venous blood
- K13 how to prepare individuals for obtaining venous blood, including how their personal beliefs and preferences may affect their preparation
- K14 what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after obtaining venous blood, and how such discomfort can be minimised
- K15 common adverse reactions/events to blood sampling, how to recognise them and the action(s) to take if they occur
- K16 the type and function of different blood collection systems
- K17 what dressings are needed for different types of puncture sites, how to apply and what advice to give individuals on caring for the site
- K18 the factors to consider in selecting the best site to use for venous access
- K19 the equipment and materials needed for venepuncture/phlebotomy and how to check and prepare blood collection systems
- K20 the importance of ensuring venous access sites are cleaned effectively,

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- and how and when this should be done
- K21 the correct use of tourniquets
- K22 the importance of correctly and safely inserting and removing needles
- K23 how to recognise an arterial puncture, and the action to take if this occurs
- K24 the factors involved in the procedure which could affect the quality of the blood
- K25 the remedial action you can take if there are problems in obtaining blood
- K26 the complications and problems may occur during venepuncture, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
- K27 when and how to dress venous puncture sites
- K28 the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation
- K29 the importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately
- K30 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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